

Against the Grain

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From the Reference Desk

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The idea of creating a scholarly publishing system that offers more open access to research has indeed become a natural force of irresistible power. **Levin** has offered us eight commandments to support a biological ecosystem; by following the guidelines **Levin** offers, libraries can support the inevitable evolution of our scholarly publishing ecosystem, shaping it into a true digital commons that will maximize the benefit research and scholarship can offer humanity. 🌱

Endnotes

1. This paper was initially presented in a slightly different form as a talk at the **American Library Association/SPARC-ACRL Forum on Public Access**, on January 20, 2007.
2. See for example: **Lawrence Lessig**, *The Future of Ideas: The Fate of the Commons in a Connected World* (New York: Vintage Books, 2002); **Tami Oliphant**, "Enclosure of the Knowledge Commons: The Role of Publishers, Librarians, and Faculty," **University of Western Ontario**, October 2006; "The Future of the Digital Commons," **MIT Communications Forum**, Sept. 22, 2005: video available through **MIT World**: <http://mitworld.mit.edu/video/303/> (accessed February 22, 2007).
3. **Simon A. Levin**, *Fragile Dominion: Complexity and the Commons* (Reading, MA: Helix Books, 1999). also see <http://www.eeb.princeton.edu/~slevin/> (accessed February 22, 2007). I would like to extend my appreciation to **Professor Levin** for his work and for developing and publishing the set of principles discussed throughout this article.
4. **Peter Suber**, *Open Access News*, 12/10/2006, http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/2006_12_10_fosblogarchive.html (accessed February 22, 2007)
5. See: <http://macfadden.mit.edu/webgroup/userneeds/index.html> (accessed February 22, 2007)
6. See: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/elicensesstudy/dlfdeliverables/home.htm> (accessed February 22, 2007)
7. See: <http://www.niso.org/committees/SERU/> (accessed February 22, 2007)
8. Study on the Economic and Technical Evolution of the Scientific Publication markets in Europe, *The European Commission, Final Report*, January 2006, p.7.
9. "The Promise of Value-based Journal Prices and Negotiation: A UC Report and View Forward," **University of California Libraries' Collection Development Committee**, January 2007.
10. "Scholarly Communication: Academic Values and Sustainable Models," **C. Judson King et al.** July 27, 2006. Berkeley, CA; **Center for Studies in Higher Education, University of California, Berkeley**.
11. The key Provisions of the **MIT Amendment** are: Nonexclusive right to use their own work in noncommercial and professional activities; Published version in OA repository (**MIT's DSpace** or the **National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central** database.); Grant **MIT** rights to use work in educational activities. **Amendment** is available at: <http://libraries.mit.edu/about/scholarly/copyright-form.html>.

From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilsont@cofc.edu>

ABC-CLIO adds another impressive set to their collection of history encyclopedias with the publication of the *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social and Military History* (2008, 978-1851097012, \$495). Edited by respected scholar **Spencer C. Tucker**, this five-volume set consists of 1,290 entries by over 200 contributors from academic institutions worldwide. Coverage includes entries from those offering "background on World War II, such as the Allied Conferences" to those covering the "breakup of the Soviet Union and the disbandment of the Warsaw Pact" in 1991.

While the majority of articles discuss military threats and diplomatic initiatives or offer biographical sketches of major and minor players, there are also entries that touch on broad cultural topics like music and literature. In addition, there are those that address specific political events like the Profumo Affair, as well as concepts and concerns like Anti-Americanism and Arms Control. Other entries focus on individual countries and their part in the Cold War. In fact, countries like the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Great Britain have a number of articles devoted to their involvement.

Aside from the diverse content coverage, one of the great strengths of the set is volume five which is separately edited by **Priscilla Roberts** and contains 171 primary source documents. But there are more than simply reprinted documents here. In each case, **Roberts** provides an introduction that places the document in context describing its relevance and giving the reader a real sense of the source's historical importance.

These five volumes are attractively produced with 350 images and over 45 individual maps complimenting the text. Overall, the articles are written in an unassuming style that provides essential information in a clear and factual way. There is only one area where there could be improvement. Although there is a complete list of alphabetical entries pro-

vided, with the number and diversity of the entries, this set could benefit from a thematic index. Compensating for this somewhat are the generous use of "see also" references but a thematic index is a useful finding aid for any encyclopedia of this scope. That being said, the Encyclopedia has other helpful features including a Cold War chronology, tables providing the rank structure for selected Cold War militaries, a glossary and an additional selective bibliography.

The *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social and Military History* will take a place among top quality sets covering 20th century history and become a standard reference for Cold War research. If this set is added to their reference collections, libraries owning good single volume works like **Thomas Parrish's Cold War Encyclopedia** (1996, 0-8050-2778-5, \$60) published by **Henry Holt** and **Scarecrow Press' Historical Dictionary of the Cold War** (2000, 0-8108-3709-9, \$65) may want to consider transferring them to circulation.

Sage Publications has also released an important reference recently. Edited by geographer **Paul Robbins** from the **University of Arizona**, the *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* (2007, 978-1-4129-2761-1, \$695) is a visually impressive resource that treats an area of study that grows in importance daily. The five volumes in this set contain 1,200 concise articles by scholars from both the social and natural sciences providing a necessary interdisciplinary perspective to the set.

The actual content gives readers "a vast range of ... entries including those that cover "key individuals, policies, problems, processes and theoretical concepts." Examining a list of articles supports this diversity of topics. There are articles that deal with the specific biology and chemistry of the environment in addition to those that discuss climate and geographic formations and features. There are also entries that cover conservation and ecological issues, environmental movements and organizations, societal issues, including politics and the economy, and of course, pollution and other threats and hazards. In addition, there are articles that talk about the intersection between society and the environment in specific countries, as well as those that discuss the contributions of individual people. Each article is fact-laden but written within the context of the interplay between human activity and the environment. Such interre-

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latedness is an obvious theme throughout this work. Brief bibliographies follow each entry and related articles are linked by "see also" references." Value added features include a resource guide listing books and periodicals, a chronology, a glossary, and an appendix that lists the United Nations main environmental indicators for water, climate change, air pollution, waste and land use. The use of color photos and maps, as well as relevant sidebars in each volume enhances the impact of the set making it visually compelling and interesting. There is one minor caveat. The general index is repeated in each volume which of course is convenient, but one questions the cost effectiveness of a practice that adds more than 90 pages to each volume.

That being said, the *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* is a unique and timely contribution. It is one of those reference works that helps lend definition to a field where due to the interdisciplinary nature of its components, added clarity is required. Thoughtful and skilled editing along with high production values have created an encyclopedia that will prove itself a valuable addition to both academic, as well as larger public libraries.

The Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Ancient World (2007, 978-0816069415, \$360) is a four-Volume set published by **Facts on File**. Edited by **Peter Bogucki** of **Princeton University** and containing contributions from more than 100 scholars, the articles in this encyclopedia are geared to advanced high school students and college undergraduates, as well as interested lay readers.

The set is organized alphabetically and views 69 different topics as they are seen in early societies from the Ice Age to those of the Ancient Greeks and Romans. Each of the topics covered starts with an introductory essay and is then followed by discussions of the topic as it relates to 8 individual centers of civilization including "Africa, Egypt, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Greece, Rome, and the Americas."

The topics covered in the set are those that you would expect from a work that focuses on society and culture. Essays deal with subjects ranging from physical adornment to household goods, from health and disease to roads and bridges, and from laws and legal codes to sports and recreation. In addition, 14 of the 69 topics address what the editor terms as "major" subjects like agriculture, art, the economy and science.

The articles offer broad surveys and as such are useful as background information for further research with each article having a bibliography leading to more specific sources. Value added features include a glossary, a chronology, and a general index. In addition, relevant primary sources are interspersed within related articles making their use easier and their importance more obvious to the reader.

The *Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Ancient World* provides a solid foundation for further exploration. The essays on each topic draw from research in a variety of fields ranging from archaeology to art history and as such, offer a necessary multifaceted and interdisciplinary approach. Public, high school and college libraries will all want to consider adding it to their collections. **Facts on File** also plans a companion set entitled the *Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Medieval World* for release in late April of 2008. (978-0816069361, \$360)

Libraries interested in additional sources of social and cultural history may also want to consider the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Daily Life: A Tour through History from Ancient Times to the Present* (2004, 978-0313325410.) It is a six-volume set that lists for \$682.95.

The *Encyclopedia of American Journalism* (2008, 978-0415969505, \$195) is a one-volume treatment of a subject that is of increasing interest to a variety of students. Published by **Routledge** and edited by **Stephen L. Vaughn**, this work consists of 405 articles varying "in length from 500 to 5,000 words" that offer scholarly coverage American journalism reflecting its historic development, both past and present.

Individual articles cover topics ranging from journalistic practices to major publications, technological developments to influential journalists, and relevant laws and legislation to important associations and organizations. Accordingly, entries vary from those on practices like investigative reporting, feminist journalism and blogs to sketches of people ranging from **Thomas Paine** to **Nellie Bly** to **Bill Moyers**. Specific attention has also been paid to foreign language, as well as ethnic newspapers. Readers

will find articles on "the Chinese-American, German-American, Japanese-American, Jewish, Native American, Latino presses, and more." Other articles treat topics as distinct as the Alien and Sedition Acts, satellite technology, the Fairness Doctrine, the **FCC**, **Salon.Com**, and **Fox News**.

As noted above, the coverage in this volume is diverse and fairly comprehensive, however, as the editor points out in his introduction, "special attention has been given to developments since 1945 and the end of World War II." Those looking for comprehensive coverage of the impact of journalism during earlier periods like the Civil War may be disappointed. While deserved coverage is given to the Anti-slavery movement, and editors like **Horace Greeley** and newspapers like the *New York Tribune*, the southern press is ignored. There is no mention of the *Richmond Enquirer*, the *Charleston Mercury* or other major southern newspapers of the era. Arguably such in-depth coverage was not within the scope of the present volume but future editions might consider expanding the historical content and growing into a multi-volume set.

The *Encyclopedia of American Journalism* is intended for a scholarly audience and will be of particular value to undergraduates interested in 20th century American journalism. The articles provide needed background along with a thorough discussion of their topics. The *Encyclopedia* is text rich with few illustrations and each entry is followed by a useful bibliography. Finding aids include both an alphabetical and thematic list of entries along with a helpful analytical index leading to content on specific pages. Academic libraries supporting journalism and communication programs will want to give it serious consideration for either reference, or circulating collections. 🌳

Rumors
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com> in *Against the Grain*? It was v.11#6 (Dec, 1999/January 2000, p.40. Well, the update is that **Martin** is now Founder and CEO of **Reputation Newtorks, Inc.** which has small offices in Lake Merritt at 580 Grand Avenue, Suite 306, Oakland, California. His mailing address is PO Box 7775 (#54909), San Francisco, CA 94120-7775. Business details will be announced in the new year.

www.martinmanley.com

Have gotten lots of great **holiday greetings!**

Latest one was from **Jack Montgomery** who I mentioned way above, can you believe that he had time to send yours truly a **birthday card!** Anyway, **Jack** says that he is doing much better and that he had a wake up call that he **does** intend to heed! Hooray! You

go, **Jack!!!** Much love from all of us!

Did I tell you that **Barbara Meyers** — the inventress of the great publishers' panels and skits in Charleston — boy! Do we miss them, **Barbara!** Anyway, **Barbara** is now **Barbars Meyers Ford!** <bmeayersconsulting.com> We hope to see you at the **2008 Charleston Conference, Barbara!** Come on down!

Got a great card from the wonderful **Tove Rosado** (once of the **University of Connecticut**) and her husband **Gabriel**. **Tove** says they have had a wonderful year traveling to Spain twice, to Costa del Sol, and to the old country, Denmark. She says in Denmark they joined a group of three old girlfriends and toured Sweden and Finland, and then St. Petersburg for five days. Gosh! It's enough to make us all want to retire, yes? When she's at home, **Tove** enjoys her garden. She says she hopes to make it to Charleston this coming year. Wouldn't that be great!

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